

## Everyday Use

**Character Boxes** The chart that follows will help you make inferences about the characters in this story. The inferences will be based in part on what the characters say and do. Fill in the blank spaces with details from the story. (Some have been filled in for you.) Then, write your inferences in the last box of each row.

### Mama

What She Says About Herself or to Others	What She Does	My Inferences
"I never had an education myself." (line 90)	"I can work outside all day." (lines 34–35)	

### Maggie

What She Says About Herself or to Others	What She Does	My Inferences
	"Maggie attempts to make a dash for the house, in her shuffling way. . . ." (lines 123–124)	

### Dee (Wangero)

What She Says About Herself or to Others	What She Does	My Inferences
"Maggie can't appreciate these quilts!" (line 286)		

### Test Practice

### Everyday Use

Improve your test-taking skills by completing the sample test item. Then, check your answer, and read the explanation in the right-hand column.

Sample Test Item	Explanation of the Correct Answer
<p>Which of the following words or phrases would Mama <i>not</i> use to describe herself?</p> <p>A hardworking</p> <p>B good at killing animals</p> <p>C fat</p> <p>D light-skinned</p>	<p>The correct answer is <i>D</i>.</p> <p>Mama says that she can work outside all day (A); that she can kill a hog (B); and that her fat keeps her warm (C). She also says that Dee would want her to be the color of an “uncooked barley pancake,” or light-skinned.</p>

**DIRECTIONS:** Circle the letter of each correct response.

- Mama remembers Dee’s behavior during the fire with—
  - gratitude
  - fear
  - anger
  - fondness
- What can you infer about Mama from these words of hers?
 

*“[Dee] used to read to us without pity, forcing words, lies, other folks’ habits, whole lives upon us two . . .”*

  - She is proud of Dee.
  - She appreciates Dee’s efforts.
  - She hates reading.
  - She resents Dee’s attitude.

- What **character trait** of Maggie’s is evident in the passage below?
 

*“‘She can have them, Mama,’ she said, like somebody used to never winning anything.”*

  - She is defiant.
  - She accepts defeat easily.
  - She is easily irritated.
  - She is sulky.
- At the end of the story, Maggie no longer seems—
  - happy
  - content
  - fearful
  - critical



**Reading Standard 3.4**  
Determine characters’ traits by what the characters say about themselves in narration, dialogue, dramatic monologue, and soliloquy.

### Test Practice

### Everyday Use

#### Context Clues

**DIRECTIONS:** Circle the letter of the context clue that helps define the boldface word.



**Reading Standard 1.3 (Grade 8 Review)**

Use word meanings within the appropriate context, and show ability to verify those meanings by definition, restatement, example, comparison, or contrast.

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| <p>1. The TV host laughed at my <b>witty</b> tongue; then he broke for a commercial.</p> <p>A TV host      C broke<br/>B laughed      D commercial</p> <p>2. During the fire, her face had a look of <b>concentration</b>, or close attention.</p> <p>F fire      H look<br/>G face      J close attention</p> | <p>3. When Dee and Jimmy were <b>courting</b>, they sometimes double-dated with their friends.</p> <p>A Dee      C double-dated<br/>B Jimmy      D friends</p> <p>4. Dee held the quilts <b>securely</b> in her arms, her hands tightly gripping the soft edges of the blanket.</p> <p>F in her arms      H soft edges<br/>G tightly gripping      J the blanket</p> |
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#### Vocabulary in Context

**DIRECTIONS:** Complete the passage by filling in each blank with the correct word from the box. Not all words will be used.

#### Word Box

sidle  
furtive  
cowering  
oppress  
doctrines  
rifling

I saw my brother sneaking out of my room, his (1) \_\_\_\_\_ movements slow and silent. When he saw me the poor kid was flinching, practically (2) \_\_\_\_\_ under my gaze. "I was just looking at your CDs," he told me. At least he admitted he had been (3) \_\_\_\_\_ through my music collection. Although I was annoyed, I decided not to (4) \_\_\_\_\_ him with any "big-brother" lecture.



#### Before You Go On...

Check your Standards Mastery at the back of this book.